

Israeli shelling kills 3 civilians

BEIRUT (R) — Three civilians were killed and 12 injured on Friday when Israeli gunners shelled a village outside their self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, the official Lebanese News Agency said. A number of houses were also damaged in Maidom village, three kilometres north of the "security zone" in the eastern sector of South Lebanon, the agency added. Lebanese army positions in the area were also hit in the attack and were put on full alert, it said. Israel has made 18 air raids on Lebanon this year. On Dec. 11, Israeli planes bombed targets north of Tripoli in north Lebanon, killing 18 people. Israel says it withdrew the bulk of its troops from Lebanon in June 1985 after a costly three-year occupation, but left hundreds of troops and plain-clothes agents behind to patrol the "security zone."

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Iraqi leader phones King

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Friday received a telephone call from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein who assured him that the Iraqi forces had repelled and completely foiled the latest Iranian aggression and also regained the Umm Al Rassas Island, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. "The Iraqi people share victory of the Iraqi army," President Hussein told the King. He reiterated that the Iraqi forces "will continue to defend the lands of Iraq and the Arab Nation against all aggression and the Iraqi army will continue to achieve further victories until the final and decisive victory." The King said he and the Jordanians people shared the joy of the victory of the Iraqi people and wished Iraq further victory and reiterated Jordan's denunciation of the Iranian aggression. The King said "the Iranian aggression against Iraq with Israeli weapons makes it incumbent upon Arabs to unify their ranks."

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Israel surprised by O'Connor cancellation

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel expressed surprise Friday about a request to cancel official meetings between government leaders and New York's Cardinal John O'Connor next week. The request came from the Vatican's diplomatic mission, which asked to cancel Cardinal O'Connor's appointments with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the end of next week. "We are puzzled by the request to change the meetings and we are checking it out," said a foreign ministry spokesman. Cardinal O'Connor is scheduled to visit Israel after spending three days in Jordan.

Siad Barre reelected

NAIROBI (AP) — President Mohammed Siad Barre, Somalia's ruler since a 1969 military coup, won a new seven-year term with more than 99.9 per cent of the votes in an uncontested election, the state radio said Friday. Radio Mogadishu said Mr. Siad Barre received 4,887,592 votes in his favour while 1,486 people voted "no" in Tuesday's presidential election.

Ozal regrets Greek statement

ANKARA (AP) — Premier Turgut Ozal on Friday expressed regrets over conditions put forward by Greek Premier Andreas Papandreu for resumption of talks with Turkey. Mr. Papandreu said Wednesday that Greece would not start a dialogue with Turkey until Turkish troops are withdrawn from the divided Mediterranean island of Cyprus. "The presence of Turkish troops on the island is not a cause of the Cyprus problem but the result of it," Mr. Ozal was reported as saying by the state radio.

'Schmidt on hit list'

HAMBURG (AP) — Former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has been targeted for assassination by the Red Army Faction, the West German newspaper Bild said Friday. Bild said a Red Army Faction strategy paper had Mr. Schmidt's name at the top of a list of assassination targets. Also on the list were Economic Development Minister Juergen Warnke as well as Juergen Moetmann, a senior aide to Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Bild said.

Syrians detain several people in N. Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian forces scouring north Lebanon have detained several people for questioning about last week's clashes with Muslim fundamentalists in the city of Tripoli, police sources said Friday. The Syrians set up roadblocks and launched a search of mountain villages east of Tripoli for suspected members of the Tawheed movement three days ago. The sources said 10 villages were still ringed by Syrian troops.

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4 groups claim attempted hijack

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Callers purporting to speak for four groups were reported Friday to have claimed responsibility for the attempted hijack of an Iraqi jetliner in which 62 people were killed.

Among these groups was Islamic Jihad, the pro-Iranian Shi'ite extremist faction that holds American and French hostages in Lebanon.

An anonymous caller claiming to speak for Islamic Jihad told a Western news agency office in Beirut that the organisation staged Thursday's hijack in cooperation with the Al Dawa Party.

Al Dawa is made up of pro-Iranian Iraqi Shi'ites opposed to the Iraqi government. They profess allegiance to Iranian revolutionary patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The Arabic-speaking caller renewed Islamic Jihad's demand that 17 comrades imprisoned in Kuwait for bombing the U.S. and French embassies there in December 1983 be freed.

He said all mediation efforts with Kuwait had failed to free any of the 17 convicts, who belong to the Al Dawa Party.

The caller said Islamic Jihad would "keep up its attacks against military, economic and other vital Iraqi targets."

He warned that Saudi Arabia would incur the organisation's wrath if it fails to "release at once" two hijackers he said were arrested after the Iraqi Boeing 737 plunged into the Saudi desert.

The caller said the jet planes intended to hijack the plane, and not to blow it up, as "means of pressure on the Iraqi government."

Another claim was telephoned by an anonymous caller to the Voice of the Nation Radio station in Beirut overnight on behalf of the Revolutionary Action Organisation, a previously unknown group.

The radio quoted the caller as saying the group would stage further attacks against "Iraqi embassies and interests" unless three members of the organisation were released from Iraqi imprisonment.

The caller identified the imprisoned comrades as Mohammad Sattar, Hassan Alawiyeh, and Ali Jaber. The station said he gave no information about his group's political affiliations or say why the three members have been jailed.

The third responsibility claim was reported by the Voice of Lebanon radio station in east Beirut.

It said an anonymous telephone caller claimed the hijack on behalf of the Revolutionary Shi'ite Organisation, without providing any information about the previously unheard of group.

Voice of the Nation said it received another telephone call at mid-morning Friday from an anonymous caller who claimed the hijack of the Iraqi aircraft on behalf of the Islamic Revolutionary Movement, which is also unheard of before.

The station quoted the caller as warning against the delivery of the prisoners it wants released to any other party.

"Otherwise we shall take revenge," the caller said and hung up without identifying the prisoners, the station reported.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA), quoting an unidentified government official, said there were two hijackers, travelling on Lebanese passports, who had arrived in Baghdad on a flight from Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

Passengers leaving Iraq through Saddam International Airport are repeatedly searched both outside and inside the terminal. The toughest search takes place after passengers go through immigration. They are also searched again as they enter the plane.

Those travelling aboard Iraqi Airways usually are not allowed to carry anything except their passports and other papers. Everything else, including women's bags, goes with the baggage.

Jordan and Egypt condemn hijack bid aboard Iraqi airliner

Iraq accuses Iranian agents of sky piracy that resulted in death of 62

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan and Egypt on Friday denounced the aborted hijack attempt and the subsequent grenade attacks aboard an Iraqi airliner killing at least 62 people on Thursday and Iraq accused Iranian agents of staging the sky piracy.

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib issued separate statements condemning the attack. "My country and others reject such acts, and strongly condemn them," Mr. Masri said in Cairo before winding up an official visit to Egypt.

Seeing him off at the airport, Egypt's Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid joined Mr. Masri's denunciation and added that "Egypt condemns all terrorist actions, especially that they do not serve the interests of peace in the Arab region." The Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported from Cairo.

In an arrival statement in Amman, Mr. Masri told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Jordan was "against any such acts of terrorism and strongly condemns them."

Information Minister Khatib on Friday condemned the attempted

hijacking. "We are against that, not only because we are against hijacking and terrorism, but also

because some Jordanians were aboard," Mr. Khatib was quoted as telling AP in an interview. Seven Jordanians were on the jetliner. Three suffered minor injuries, two were killed and two seriously wounded, Mr. Khatib said adding that the seriously injured were hospitalised in Saudi Arabia.

The survivors included first class passengers and a majority of the 15 crew-members, except two stewardesses and one steward who

(Continued on page 3)



Mr. Suleiman Arar, a former deputy prime minister and interior minister, recounts the aborted hijack attempt and the subsequent crash of an Iraqi jetliner which he miraculously escaped to His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah who received him upon arrival in Amman 10 hours after Thursday's crash (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Survivor recounts 20 minutes of 'horror and death' in the sky

By Lami K. Andoni and Sa'ad G. Hattar Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — The tragic crash of an Iraqi jetliner which killed at least 62 people on Thursday was the direct result of the cockpit crew being seriously wounded when a hand grenade hurled by one of the "suicidal" hijackers exploded in the cockpit, according to one of the Jordanian survivors.

The aborted hijack over Saudi airspace and the subsequent crash of the Iraqi Airways Boeing 737 in the Saudi desert at midday on Thursday drew condemnation from Jordan, Egypt and Iraq, which on Friday accused Iranian agents of staging the sky piracy.

In Amman on Friday, Salim Al 'Dado, a businessman, one of the survivors, gave a minute-by-minute account of the incidents that immediately preceded the plunge of the jetliner. Mr. Dado said the entire episode of "horror and death" lasted for about 20 minutes and the actual battle between the hijackers and Iraqi security men aboard the plane lasted about

seven minutes. Former Interior Minister Suleiman Arar and his brother Khaled also miraculously escaped the crash at a Saudi airstrip in the desert some 400 kilometres southwest of Baghdad.

According to reports from Saudi Arabia and Iraq, as well as the Jordanian Civil Aviation Authority, the plane, Flight No. 163 from Baghdad to Amman, was carrying 107 people, including a 15-member crew. Shortly after taking off from Saddam International Airport at 12.25 noon (0925 GMT), the Boeing disappeared from Iraqi, Saudi and Jordanian radar and it was not until several hours later that news of the aborted hijack and the crash was heard.

According to Mr. Dado, the first sign of trouble came when the captain announced that the plane was entering Saudi airspace. "A young man in his early twenties rushed to the cockpit door wielding a dark blue grenade in each of his hands," Mr. Dado said, who was sitting in a second row seat in the first class section. "The man was screaming... something

like 'aaahhhhhhh'... obviously to scare the passengers and stall action by Iraqi security men aboard the aircraft."

Sitting in the living room of his two-storey villa in Smeisani, Mr. Dado recalled that reaction from Iraqi guards was very swift. "One of the guards shouted at the gunman to give up while another shot the would-be hijacker in the shoulder from a vantage point at the divider between the first and economy classes," Mr. Dado said.

Mr. Dado gave the following account of the subsequent events: The gunman who was shot in the shoulder did not fall down. He held the grenades aloft and the Iraqi guards were apparently fearful of his intentions. A few seconds of stalemate prevailed by which time shots were heard from the economy class. "I could not see anything," Mr. Dado said, "but the gunfire continued for at least seven minutes during which at least a hundred shots were fired."

When the gunfire in the

(Continued on page 3)

'Camps war' panel to meet

TUNIS (Agencies) — An Arab League committee of foreign ministers charged with trying to organise a ceasefire in Lebanon's "camps war" will meet in Tunis on Jan. 3 to discuss its mission, Arab diplomatic sources said Friday.

The committee, formed at an extraordinary Arab League meeting here on Monday, sent letters the next day to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, but no reply has been received, the sources told Reuters.

The letters explained the committee's mission, which involves travelling to Damascus and Beirut to try to end three months of bitter fighting between the Shi'ite Amal militia and Palestinians besieged in their refugee camps in Lebanon.

Their dispatch did not mean Lebanon and Syria were considered as participants in the "camps war," but as capable of helping the committee in its task, the sources added.

Both Syria and Lebanon expressed reservations about a resolution creating the committee,

comprised of seven foreign ministers and Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi. The countries involved are Algeria, current president of the Arab League Council, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Kuwait, Mauritania, North Yemen and Jordan.

Lebanon insists the "camps war" is an internal affair. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which called the Arab League emergency session, accuses Syria of direct involvement with Amal in the attacks on Palestinians.

Amal, backed by Syria, accuses PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat of trying to regain his military base in Lebanon. The Palestinians say they are only defending their camps from a drive to disarm and expel them from the country.

In an interview with Lebanese Television broadcast on Thursday, Amal leader Nabih Berri raised the possibility of negotiating directly with Mr. Arafat for an end to the "camps war."

Mr. Arafat is "dominating the

Palestinian scene in Lebanon and I wonder which is better — negotiating with the (Damascus-based anti-Arafat) Palestine National Salvation Front or Fateh," Mr. Berri said in the interview.

However, Mr. Berri threatened to continue the camps war "if the Palestinians tried to dominate Lebanon." He added that the Amal movement "will fight them (the Palestinians) as it did with all other occupation forces."

In Beirut, artillery and rocket exchanges killed at least two people and wounded eight in an overnight flare-up of the "camps war," Palestinian sources said Friday.

They told Reuters two people were killed when Amal militiamen ringtoning Bourj Al Barajneh camp opened tank fire into the alleyways of the shantytown and eight were wounded in shelling of Shatila camp.

Palestinian fighters east of Beirut ambushed a bus full of Amal militiamen on Thursday, killing one and wounding five, Amal said in a statement.

Iraqis celebrate recapture of Umm Al Rassas island

Iran seeks to play down scale of fighting but prisoners and decaying corpses.

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said on Friday its troops had achieved total victory over an Iranian invasion force after two days of fierce fighting in southern Iraq.

A high command communique broadcast by Baghdad Radio and Television said the Iraqi flag had been hoisted over Umm Al Rassas island in the Shatt Al Arab waterway which the Iranians occupied at the start of their latest offensive on Wednesday night.

A 21-gun salute was fired in Baghdad immediately after the announcement of "the final blessed result of the great battles of the past two days. Enemy forces were defeated in Umm Al Rassas and the Iraqi flag was hoisted high."

Seventh Army Corps Commander Lieutenant-General Maher Abd Al Rashid, in a cable to President Saddam Hussein, said the Iraqis had attacked his front with six divisions and six brigades of Revolutionary Guards.

He said nothing was left of them

but prisoners and decaying corpses.

"Fighting over the past two days went ... from one inch of land to another while the ground was exploding under their fighters like hell," the general said.

Umm Al Rassas is about 100 metres from the Iraqi bank and 400 metres from the Iranian side of the waterway, near the Iranian twin cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr.

A military spokesman said earlier that Iraqi forces had killed all Iranians on crossings connecting Umm Al Rassas with another island, Umm Al Chabbaby.

On the other hand, Iran claimed Friday it had killed 3,000 Iraqi troops in its "limited" offensive on the southern war front.

Tehran Radio claimed another 6,500 Iraqis were wounded in the offensive.

In an apparent bid to dampen speculation that the attack was Iran's long-heralded "final offensive," the Islamic Republic

News Agency (IRNA) contended it was only a local push.

"The operation was a limited offensive aimed at demolishing Iraqi troop sites and artillery emplacements," a military spokesman was quoted as saying by the agency.

Witnesses told AP Iraqi troops fired machine guns into the air in Baghdad in celebration Friday morning after Baghdad radio said Iraqi forces were victorious.

Iraq also denied Iranian reports that two Iraqi aircraft were shot down on Thursday and that one of its gunboats had been destroyed by a missile.

Baghdad Television Thursday night showed corpses of hundreds of Iraqis, including some frogmen, lying beside barbed wire fences. Dozens of prisoners were seen being taken away in trucks.

Iranian troops last attacked Umm Al Rassas in February during an invasion of Iraq's Fao Peninsula farther south. Iran still holds the disputed oil port of Fao and land around it.

16 Arab vehicles attacked in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The tyres of 16 parked cars belonging to Palestinians were slashed in a street of the Christian quarter of East Jerusalem overnight, police sources said Friday.

There was no indication who was responsible but Jewish extremists were suspected.

The vandalism followed the explosion on Thursday of what police described a small bomb placed among cooking gas canisters at a housing project in west Jerusalem.

On Thursday the Israeli authorities said they had apprehended a fundamentalist Muslim group suspected of killing two Israelis and wounding one other in three attacks in the occupied Gaza Strip.

The army refused to say how many people were arrested, but Israeli Radio said there were two members in the group.

The army said the Arabs were suspected of carrying out the attacks on Sept. 27 and Oct. 7 in which two Israeli men were killed to death in Gaza City, and conducting another stabbing attack in Gaza last month.

The announcement said the group was part of a fundamentalist group called Islamic Jihad.

The army said its investigation of the case was continuing. It died 13 to say when the suspects were captured.

In another development, eight rooms of arrested Palestinians were sealed shut in several villages and refugee camps in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Israeli Radio reported.

The radio said the rooms belonged to Palestinians charged with grenade and firebomb attacks.

Masri back from Cairo

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri returned from Cairo on Friday after a three-day visit to Egypt during which he held talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly Ri'fat Al Mahjoub, Prime Minister Atef Sedki and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid on bilateral relations and means of further promoting and strengthening Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in various fields.

The two sides also discussed current issues on the Arab and international arenas, efforts to overcome obstacles impeding the holding of an international peace conference, as well as joint coordination on issues which are expected to be tackled during the forthcoming summit of the Organisation of Islamic

Conference (OIC) scheduled to be held in Kuwait next month.

In a statement issued on Thursday, Mr. Masri said Jordan and Egypt were determined to pursue efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East regardless of obstacles.

Mr. Masri made the statement to newsmen following a meeting he held with Dr. Sedki.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Mr. Masri as expressing his deep satisfaction with the existing state of relations between Egypt and Jordan.

Earlier on Thursday, Dr. Abdul Meguid and Mr. Masri held talks at the Foreign Ministry in Cairo. They reviewed Egyptian-Jordanian relations and current Arab affairs. Petra quoted Dr. Abdul Meguid as saying that the two sides agreed on all points discussed at the meeting.

Shamir testifies in land scam

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the first Israeli premier to appear in a criminal trial, testified Friday in the case of a realtor accused of bribing officials in Mr. Shamir's party for permits to sell land in the occupied West Bank.

Mr. Shamir appeared for the defence in the case of Shmuel Einan, a land merchant who contributed several thousand dollars in campaign contributions to the premier's right-wing Likud Bloc.

The defence contends Einan contributed funds to the campaign at the request of Likud leaders, while the prosecution claims the money was given to party officials in return for help in obtaining land sale permits and building licences in the West Bank.

The case, along with several land scams revealed in the summer of 1985, slowed down efforts by the Likud and private land dealers to build settlements in the West Bank where some 60,000 Jewish settlers live among 800,000 Palestinians.

Defence attorney Dan Sheinman repeatedly asked Mr. Shamir about the contents of two meetings and whether campaign contributions had been discussed.

"I was very busy, and I cannot be expected to remember the exact content of the meeting ... one of several hundred," Mr. Shamir said.

He also said he generally did not discuss campaign contributions with party supporters. "My job was to exert them to be active, to be interested in the success of the party in elections so as to push forward Jewish settlement (in the West Bank)," he said.

Mr. Shamir said he first met with Einan in the presence of then-Deputy Agriculture Minister Michael Dekel who was in charge of West Bank projects for the Likud. The two men met a second time in the presence of some 20 other West Bank contractors and land dealers who complained about tape for land permits, he said.

Reagan appoints special White House adviser on arms scandal

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan on Friday named former NATO envoy David Abshire as a cabinet-level special adviser to coordinate White House efforts to resolve the Iran arms scandal.

The White House said in a written statement Mr. Abshire would head a team which would supervise White House actions in the controversy over the secret sale of arms to Iran and the diversion of profits to U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels.

"He will coordinate White House responses to congressional and other requests for information in a timely manner, working with senior members of the White House staff, assisted by representatives from key White House staff offices," it said.

Mr. Abshire, a graduate of the U.S. military academy at West Point, recently stepped down as America's NATO ambassador, a

post he held since 1983.

He was listed among possible replacements for John Foudexter who resigned as national security adviser when the diversion to Nicaraguan contra rebels of proceeds from the arms sales was disclosed.

Another National Security Council (NSC) official, Oliver North, was fired. Former diplomat Frank Carlucci took Vice-Admiral Foudexter's post.

The Iran-contra disclosures spawned an array of investigations, ranging from a presidential review board's examination of the role and conduct of the NSC staff to an inquiry into possible criminal wrongdoing by a court-appointed independent counsel.

In addition, Congress is set to resume a probe to the affair early next month by select House of Representatives and Senate investigative committees.

Mr. Abshire is to coordinate the White House response to the various inquiries.

In a related development, Israel asked an espionage agent in Washington, Jonathan Jay Pollard, to check on what weapons the Jewish state might provide to Iran as part of a secret arms deal, the Jerusalem post reported.

The Post's Washington correspondent quoted U.S. Justice Department documents in reporting that Pollard, a civilian intelligence analyst for the U.S. navy, was asked by Yosef Yagur at the Israeli consulate in New York to work on potential arms sales to Iran.

At the time of his arrest last November in Washington, Pollard had just completed a letter to Yagur concerning missile systems "designed or manufactured by various non-communist countries, which might be available for sale to Iran," the Post reported.

Committee draws up mechanism for development plan in occupied territories

AMMAN (Petra) — A newly formed ministerial committee on occupied territories is now involved in drawing up the mechanism for implementing five-year development programmes for the Arab inhabitants under Israeli rule, according to Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, under secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs.

Addressing a symposium held Wednesday at the Royal Cultural Centre, in the course of a rural week entitled Palestine

History and Culture, Dr. Qatanani said that the Jordanian government has plans to spend JD 392 million on projects for stimulating the economic activity and for promoting public services in the occupied Arab territories. The aim of the programme, he said, is to enable the Arab inhabitants to resist Israel's measures and maintain their steadfastness in their homeland.

The programme, he said, has won support at a conference held recently in Amman to discuss the implementation of five-year plans

on both banks.

Also speaking at the symposium was Dr. Ghazi Rabab'a, from the University of Jordan, who said that the Israeli authorities were pursuing a policy directed against the educational institutions on the West Bank. He called on Arab countries to launch cultural and educational programmes through their information media to counter the Israeli onslaught.

Another speaker was Dr. Assad Abdul Rahman, director of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Amman. He spoke of Israel's drive to establish settlements in occupied Arab land and gave details of the number of settlements and colonies established since 1967.

Dr. Mohammad Amireh, from the Royal Scientific Society, spoke about the danger inherent in continued emigration of Arab inhabitants from their homeland. A total of 153,000 people have been forced to abandon their homeland in Palestine since 1981 as a result of Israel's repressive policies, Dr. Amireh pointed out. He said that the development plan for the occupied land is designed to help stop such emigration and to stimulate the economic activities in the Arab territory.



CROWN PRINCE IN AUSTRIA: Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath arrived in Vienna on Thursday on a private visit expected to last several days. They were seen off from Amman by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasbi (seen in photo), Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Minister of Higher Education Nasserddine Al Assadi, Chief of Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammed Mubashir, and other senior officials (Petra photo)

Hebron group holds talks with Dudin

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin met here on Thursday with a delegation from Hebron Municipality in the occupied Arab West Bank, and discussed development projects in the Hebron area.

The minister told the delegation, led by Dr. Abdul Majid Al Zir, the head of the municipality's committee, that the Jordanian government will be willing to help finance development projects in Hebron with the aim of enhancing the steadfastness of the Arab population in the face of Israel's measures. Dr. Al Zir briefed the minister on the general conditions in Hebron city and the

development projects his municipality plans to carry out.

Later, the delegation met with Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, the ministry's under secretary, with whom they reviewed the municipality's projects, specifically those for building schools, roads, and laying electrical, water and sewerage networks. The projects will be later submitted to a ministerial committee in charge of occupied territories affairs which is entrusted with making allocations for such projects.

The Hebron delegation are members of the committee in charge of the municipality which used to be run by an Israeli army officer.

Dajani conducts inspection tour of northern Jordan

IRBID (Petra) — Interior Minister Rajai Dajani has continued his inspection tour of the northern regions of the country with visits to Ramtha near the border with Syria and Bani Kanana bedouin region and the northern Jordan Valley areas.

The minister started his tour in Ramtha, where he met with its district governor to hear a briefing on the general administrative, economic and agricultural situation there as well as plans for the implementation of a five-year plan for the Ramtha district.

The minister held a meeting with officials and notables from this district. Later he inspected work on the construction of a government house and also the border post where he looked into travel procedures.

While on a visit to Bani Kanana bedouin region, the minister was briefed on projects being implemented and looked into projects scheduled to be implemented within the new five-year plan.

The minister held a meeting for local officials during which he said that a higher committee has been set up to study means of developing tourism in the northern regions of the country.

After the meeting, the minister inspected a project for building

homes for the citizens of Umm Qais, the archaeological town whose inhabitants had to be moved to be settled in a new area. He also inspected tourist projects at Himmeh mineral springs and toured the northern Jordan region. He was accompanied by Irbid governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin, the police director and other local officials.

JD 45.1 million income tax collected

AMMAN (J.T.) — The income tax department says that it has collected JD 45.1 million in income tax during 1986. This is far below the JD 61 million mark projected in the 1986 financial budget.

In 1985 the department collected JD 54 million; this year the new 1987 budget estimates that a total of JD 55 million will be collected from Jordanian individuals, various organisations and companies.

According to the 1987 budget there has been a drop by 25 per cent in income tax collection because the government has been directing its financial policy towards investments which provides for granting exemptions from income tax to certain projects.

Jordan, Egypt condemn hijack attempt

(Continued from page 1)

re trapped in the economy class which bore the brunt of the plunge in 28,000 feet.

MEANA said President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt telephoned President Saddam Hussein Friday. The report only said Mubarak inquired about the fate of Iraq's frontier in its alating war with Iran.

The Iraqi Airways Boeing 737 crashed Thursday during an emergency landing at Arar in eastern Saudi Arabia, afterackers detonated two grenades aboard. The plane was flying from Baghdad to Amman.

Among the Jordanian passengers who survived the crash were former Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Iqbal Arar, and his brother, a well-known lawyer, and Salim Al Dado, a prominent businessman who travels frequently between Baghdad and Amman.

His Majesty King Hussein made a phone call to Mr. Arar, the son of Thursday, hours after the crash. The second in Amman when his Majesty congratulated Mr. Arar and family on the escape from death of the two Arar others.

The survivors said that the tonation of the grenades lowered a fierce exchange of fire between six Iraqi security men and five of the hijackers. According to their account the plane crashed after 15 to 20 minutes after the

detonation of the grenades.

The injured were taken to Saudi Arabian hospitals while two surviving hijackers were detained by Saudi Arabian security. In a statement from Baghdad, the Iraqi government described the hijackers as "Iranian agents."

The Jordanian survivors were flown to Amman by a special Saudi plane. They were received upon arrival by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasbi, Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and the Saudi ambassador in Amman, Sheikh Ibrahim Al Sultan.

On Friday, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Cabinet members and senior officials as well as a large crowd of well-wishers visited the residence of Mr. Arar to congratulate the former deputy prime minister and his brother for their miraculous escape.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh made separate phone calls to his Iraqi and Saudi counterparts inquiring about the treatment of the injured passengers there, Petra said.

An informed source in Amman, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition he was not identified, said one of the surviving hijackers told Saudi interrogators that the plan was to force the airliner to fly to Damascus and then to Tehran. In Paris, Iraq's ambassador to France, Mohammad Sadiq Al Maschat, accused Iran of

masterminding the hijack bid, calling it a "crime of the Iranian regime."

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Tehran "officially denied" any involvement Friday.

IRNA quoted an unidentified Foreign Ministry official as saying: "We condemn any moves which may threaten the lives of innocent passengers."

Sources in the Mujahideen-e-Khalq, the main opposition group active in Iran, said in telephone interviews that the attempted hijacking was linked to Iran.

The sources, who spoke to AP on condition they were not identified, said Iranian leaders including Prime Minister Hussein Mussavi and Shi'ite leaders from other Middle Eastern countries attended a Tehran meeting Dec. 20 to discuss "terrorist actions to divert attention from Iran's problems, particularly setbacks in the war."

The Saudi Defence Ministry said there were 107 people on board the Boeing-737 — 91 passengers, 15 crew members and a security man. Saudi Arabia said 62 people died and 44 survived, leaving the fate of one person unaccounted for. Petra said there were 30 survivors.

The nationalities of most of the passengers were not immediately known.

An unidentified Iraqi official in Baghdad was quoted by the Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency as saying that one of the two unidentified hijackers was killed by a security officer and the other died in the crash.

The agency quoted the official as saying the two hijackers were travelling on Lebanese passports, and that they had arrived in Baghdad on a flight from Yugoslavia.

Survivor recounts 'horror'

(Continued from page 1)

mony section died down, the nman near the cockpit door alised that his fellow sky pirates re either killed or subdued. "By n the Iraqi guards shot him ain, this time in the hips, spite the wounds, he swiftly ried the two grenades — one to economy section and the other the cockpit. He had apparently lised that it was all over for him d his fellow gunmen (we did not ow how many were there at the e).

"The Iraqi guards jumped on n and nailed him down. An qi diplomat, who was sitting r one of the security men, ctically squatted on the man to d him down."

Mr. Dado himself had to help p the gunman from moving. e was very strong and would t stop moving. His head was ar my feet and when I realised t he was reaching for meing, possibly a revolver. I t my feet on his hand to stop n."

By then it was almost possible to see anything and rk clouds filled the plane and sengers thought it was the end d were shouting in unison Alahu Akbar. They were also dng for air as the smoke of ung plastic made it extremely ficult to breathe and there was use in trying to use oxygen ask since the electricity was out. As the smoke cleared a little, sengers in the first class cabin d clearly see the captain and e co-pilot struggling to control e plane despite their wounds stained when the grenade ploded. "The explosion blew off e door of the cockpit and we d see the captain and co-pilot. ose faces were bloodstained d their white shirts completely ck from the smoke, struggling ontact the ground and control e plane. I think the two men re very brave... they actually manged to control the plane for least 15 minutes after the last."

The first officer, who was as uffused as everybody, asked the ssengers to remain quiet and

keep calm and told them that the plane was landing in Amman airport. But instead the landing turned into an episode of horror when the pilot lost control and the plane plunged from 28,000 feet into the desert sand and split into two parts. "I was conscious and looking outside, and I saw a runway. The plane made a circle around the runway and then glided and crashed into the sand," Mr. Dado said. When asked how it felt, he said: "It was like making a landing without wheels and we heard a big blast."

The blast was the result of the crash into the sandy area near Arar airport in Saudi Arabia, and as the survivors later found out the plane was split into two.

"I looked around me and for the first time I realised that my neighbour was bleeding from his head. I think he was hit by a stray bullet. The first officer tried to help us and asked us to go out through the sliding door. The first persons to go out were the two Arar brothers and the Iraqi ambassador and the security men. The Iraqi security men insisted on taking the wounded hijacker out with them."

"While I was about to go out I saw a young woman carrying an infant. I took them with me and glided, carrying them both down the chute."

Once the passengers were out, it was obvious that the plane, which had split into two parts lying 300 metres apart, was already in flames and was about to explode. "We kept running away from it and took to the ground fearing flying sharpnels. It only took the plane a few seconds to blow up completely."

Mr. Dado and the other survivors were later taken to the hospital where they saw many corpses of burned people, some of whom were reduced to "ashes." He said that among those killed were two stewardesses, one steward and one Iraqi security man. Mr. Dado had no idea of the fate of the man who was sitting beside him but said that the majority of the passengers were Egyptian, Sudanese or Somali.

Senate committee to discuss budget

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Financial Committee will hold its first round of sessions Saturday, to discuss the JD 1.018 billion budget for 1987.

The budget, which for the first time in the Kingdom's financial history exceeds the JD 1 billion, was referred to the committee by Senate members who met in a two-minute session on Thursday morning.

Attending the Senate committee's meetings to detail the budget will be Finance Minister Hanna Odeh and a number of his ministry's senior officials, and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sami Joudeh.

The budget was earlier endorsed by the Lower House during Tuesday's session. Four out of the majority of deputies present at the meeting voted against the budget. Those deputies were Laila Shubailat (Amman), Riyad Al Nawaish (Karak), Mohammad Al Kofahi (Irbid), and Abdullah Al Akaleh (from Tafleh).

The majority of the 19 deputies who spoke during the almost eight-hour session cautioned against any increase in securing loans from outside Jordan and recommended an amendment to the 1971 law on internal public debts. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai disagreed with the recommendation, saying that Jordan's foreign debt services in 1986 reached 12.4 per cent of its exports and thus it was still far below the internationally recognised red line of 20 per cent.

The 1971 law stipulates ceilings for the government's internal borrowing and the proposed amendment, had it been approved, would have imposed limits on loans from outside the country.

The majority of the deputies who spoke during the session, as well as the House Financial Committee, voiced support for the government's socio-economic policies. In their speeches, the deputies praised the government's goals of strengthening the Jordanian armed forces and public security apparatus, its encouragement of investments and the private sector, support for

the steadfastness of the people in the Israeli-occupied territories, and its development programme for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

They also urged the government to take necessary measures to curb the growing unemployment and limit the number of foreign workers in the country to render more support for the agricultural sector, to impose a protectionist policy on the country's industries provided they are of adequate quality and reasonable prices, and to decrease the money allocated for feasibility studies by making use of research facilities available at the Jordanian universities.

Dr. Akaleh warned during the session that Jordan was borrowing "beyond its limits" and that most of the loans were "commercial." He claimed that the interests due on Jordan's foreign debts would be JD 168,232,000 in 1987 with its debts reaching JD 1,000 million.

But, in reply, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai dismissed Dr. Akaleh's figures as "groundless and not based on any real financial calculations."

Citrus production in Gaza drops

AMMAN (Petra) — Citrus fruit production in the occupied Gaza Strip has dropped from 250,000 tonnes to 136,000 tonnes in the past year; this year it is expected to drop to 75,000 tonnes, largely due to Israel's measures imposed on the fruit growers, according to Mr. Hashem Al Shawwa, chairman of the Citrus Fruit Producers Federation in Gaza.

He told the Jordan News Agency Petra that the Israeli authorities have been imposing heavy taxes on the farmers, obstructing the marketing of their crops, and seizing water resources. But, he said that the federation is continuing to resist Israeli measures and struggling to maintain production and

marketing of crops.

At present the federation has started organising exports of crops through the Aqaba port to Arab and foreign countries, and plans to use the facilities of the Port Said in Egypt for the same purpose, Mr. Shawwa said.

He said that the federation is trying to solve the unemployment problem of agricultural engineers by involving them in the process of producing citrus fruits in Gaza Strip.

The federation has been encouraged by a decision by the European Community countries to offer occupied territories' farmers special privileges in marketing their crops; this measure is bound to stop the

deteriorating farming situation in the Israeli held Arab territory, and will certainly help marketing more Arab crops abroad, Mr. Shawwa pointed out. He said that the people of the occupied Arab territories attach great hopes on the Jordanian government's sponsored five-year development plan for the occupied lands.

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1986 — the year when technology showed its darker face

By Michael Stott
Rouer

LONDON — The explosion of the Challenger space shuttle in January — to be followed a few months later by the Chernobyl disaster — ushered in a year when the fruits of man's control over technology became only too evident to a world accustomed to ever-increasing scientific progress.

On the international front, 1986 saw hopes of an arms control pact being frustrated at the Gorbachev-Reagan Reykjavik meeting in October, and Ronald Reagan's own presidency stricken by the covert Iran arms deals.

Several heads of government and state departed the scene suddenly, through death or upheaval. They included Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme who was assassinated, Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines and Jean-Claude Duvalier of Haiti who were toppled and President Samora Machel of Mozambique who was killed in a plane crash.

The American space disaster, in which seven astronauts were killed when Challenger exploded just after liftoff, was overshadowed on April 26 by a far more chilling illustration of technological fallibility, as the stricken number four reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in the Soviet Union spewed out radiation over most of Europe.

Although only 31 people died as direct result of the accident, some estimates said premature deaths from cancer caused by the release of radiation could be much higher.

The killer disease AIDS continued its march across the world, as governments woke up to what scientists described as the greatest threat to the human race since the black death plague of the Middle Ages. The World Health

Organisation estimated that up to ten million people worldwide were already carrying the virus.

In November, Europe was hit by a new environmental catastrophe when 30 tonnes of toxic chemicals swept into the River Rhine after a fire at the Sandoz chemical firm in Basle, Switzerland, devastating fish life and seriously affecting drinking water supplies in West Germany and The Netherlands.

President Reagan, who began 1986 with Americans rating him one of the most popular presidents ever, finished the year very differently. After the setback of the November congressional elections in which the Republican Party lost its Senate majority, he became embroiled in the most serious crisis of his presidency when it emerged that the U.S. had secretly sold arms to Iran and that profits from the sale had been diverted to fund contra guerrillas fighting the leftist government of Nicaragua.

In the Soviet Union, Communist Party leader Mikhail Gorbachev pressed on with attempts to reform his country's system. In December, he dramatically ordered the release from internal exile of Andrei Sakharov, the leading Soviet dissident, in what some Western commentators said could herald a major rethink of the problem of disarmament.

Dominating international diplomacy in 1986 was the October Reykjavik meeting. A major arms control agreement loomed tantalisingly close, but finally eluded Reagan and Gorbachev. Though both leaders blazed each other for the failure of the talks, they did agree that the American "Star Wars" space weapons programme had been the main bone of contention.

After Reykjavik, the prospects for an arms pact appeared to fade

as Gorbachev insisted that any arms control package must include curbs on Star Wars and Reagan remained adamant that his space weapons research would go on.

One setback came at the end of November, when Reagan deployed a nuclear-armed bomber which breached the 1979 SALT-2 arms treaty between the two superpowers. Though the treaty was never ratified in the United States, Congress strongly opposed the move, and Gorbachev described it as a "major mistake."

The year saw major world economies expand, but not vigorously enough to dent unemployment totals. A huge U.S. trade deficit headed towards \$145 billion, eliciting calls for protectionist measures in the United States.

At year-end, the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) warned of the danger that protectionism could stifle world trade and endanger even the present modest expansion.

But inflation was down in many nations, partly because of cheaper oil. Year-end saw the one-month Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) planning to try to defend a price at \$18 a barrel after a year of which OPEC President Riwanu Lukman said: "I wish it didn't happen."

The oil glut during 1986 had sent prices plunging from \$30 to below \$9 in July, before OPEC production controls edged it up again.

Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, architect of OPEC economic power in the 1970s, was dismissed as Saudi Oil Minister by King Fahd, apparently over differences on how to cope with the glut.

Despite strains that low oil prices exerted on oil exporters

such as Mexico, Ecuador and Venezuela, the Third World debt crisis was eased. Debt rescheduling agreements for the two largest debtors, Brazil and Mexico were reached and one was being finalised for Nigeria.

Two major natural disasters in 1986 killed at least 3,000 people. In August a freak release of toxic gases from the volcanic Lake Nios in Cameroon killed over 1,700 while an earthquake struck the El Salvadoran capital San Salvador in October, leaving an estimated 1,500 dead.

On the international front, Washington's anger over what it alleged as Libyan-inspired acts of terrorism against the United States — denied by Libya — led to direct military confrontation in March and April after a series of attacks in which Americans were killed.

When Libya fired missiles at U.S. aircraft on manoeuvres with the Sixth Fleet in the Gulf of Sirte — which Libya considers as its historical territorial waters — the Americans retaliated by attacking Libyan patrol boats and a land-based missile site.

Then in April, after a bomb attack which killed a U.S. serviceman in West Berlin, Washington launched night-time air raids on Tripoli and Benghazi. Among the scores of casualties, hospital officials said Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's adopted baby daughter was killed.

South Africa was rarely out of the news. A government imposition of a state of emergency in June after some 2,000 people had died in over two years of anti-apartheid riots in black townships led, according to monitoring groups, to the imprisonment without trial of more than 20,000 people.

Pressure from the rest of the world for radical reforms of the apartheid system was stepped up during the year. The U.S.

Congress voted to impose a comprehensive package of economic sanctions, and a series of pull-outs by big multinationals followed. Other sanctions were imposed by the European Community and the Commonwealth.

On October 19, an airliner carrying Mozambican President Samora Machel ploughed into a South African hillside, killing Machel and 33 others. Black African states accused Pretoria of involvement in the crash, a charge South Africa vigorously denied.

In the Middle East, efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict received a setback when talks between Jordan and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) broke down.

Jordan pushed for an international peace conference and rejected overtures from Israel to enter into direct negotiations.

The Iran-Iraq war entered its seventh year with no signs of a move towards peace or either side gaining a significant military advantage. Attacks on shipping in the Gulf intensified with at least 80 vessels hit this year and more than 50 seamen killed.

More blood was shed in Lebanon, weary of 11 years of civil war. A Syrian-brokered peace pact between the main Christian and Muslim militias collapsed at the start of the year when Christian President Amin Gemayel withheld his backing.

The kidnapping of foreigners in Lebanon by extremists continued, prompting a mass exodus of most remaining Westerners from Muslim west Beirut. Hostages were freed after strenuous mediation contacts with Syria and Iran but others were quickly taken.

As 1986 drew to a close, 19 foreigners were believed held in captivity, mostly Americans and Frenchmen.

The assassination of Swedish leader Olof Palme in February by still-unidentified killers sent a shock wave through Europe. The gunning-down on a Stockholm street of a leader best known for his campaigning on the world stage for democracy, peace and social justice remained hard to explain.

In the Philippines, the 20-year government of Ferdinand Marcos came to a sudden end as crowds took to the streets in a largely non-violent display of "people-power" following a military uprising. The United States, long his staunchest ally, finally withdrew its support and he was forced to flee into exile in Hawaii in February.

Corazon Aquino, widow of assassinated opposition leader Benigno Aquino, became president.

In the Caribbean republic of Haiti, the 15-year rule of former president-for-life Jean-Claude Duvalier also came to a dramatic end. "Baby Doc" left Haiti in February, ending 28 years of rule by the Duvalier dynasty, after two months of widespread demonstrations and the withdrawal of support by the United States, which helped him escape to France.

In Africa, the acute famine and drought problems of previous years, which had inspired the live aid series of fund-raising concerts, eased after two years of good rainfall though United Nations experts warned that Angola, Mozambique, Sudan, Ethiopia and Botswana remained in dire need of assistance in the aftermath of the drought.

Nigerian playwright and novelist Wole Soyinka became the first African to win the Nobel Prize for literature. Soyinka called the prize "a tribute to Africa."



Strangers and Brothers — Monday, 10:20

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — Dec. 27, 1986 struggle with the policies of Churchill's Foreign Office.

8:30 You Again 10:20 Murder She Wrote

9:10 Sat. Variety Show Mon. — Dec. 29, 1986

10:20 Feature Film 8:30 No Place Like Home.

Hell in the Aegean 9:10 The Count of Monte Cristo

The story of German invasion of Crete during World War II, and the Greek resistance to the occupying army.

Sun. — Dec. 28, 1986

8:30 Who's the Boss New comedy series

9:10 Doc. — The Story of S.O.E.

Greek entanglement

SOE's first blow in the Balkans was struck against the strategic Gorgopotamos railway viaduct, which carried the bulk of Rommel's supplies south to Piraeus to be shipped to North Africa. Greek resistance fighters had joined the British-led saboteurs in the assault. They came from two guerrilla groups — the Communist-backed ELAS and the non-Communist EDES. The man who led the attack, Eddie Myers, and his second-in-command, Chris Woodhouse, return to Greece to report on how they cut the supply line, tricked the Germans, and

Tue. — Dec. 30, 1986

8:30 Music Box

9:30 Yes, Prime Minister.

10:20 Simon and Simon

Wed. — Dec. 31, 1986

8:30 Three's Company

9:00 New Cycle programmes

9:30 Brat Farrar

10:20 Feature Film

Do vegetarians live longer?

By Heinz Ockhardt

VEGETARIANS can no longer be dismissed as crackpots whose diet endangers their lives. Apparently, they live longer and do not die from cardiovascular diseases and cancer as often as do their contemporaries with conventional eating and behaviour habits. These are the findings of a five-year study by the *Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum* (German Cancer Research Centre in Heidelberg) which, like the 1984 Berlin study on vegetarians by the *Bundesgesundheitsamt* (Federal Health Office), makes a scientific plea for the "obvious advantages of a vegetarian diet."

Since 1978, 1,904 persons (858 males and 1,046 females) have taken part in this study and voluntarily completed a general questionnaire on their vegetarian way of life. For the sake of differentiated evaluations, the test persons were divided into two groups: the "strict" and the "less strict" vegetarians. The first group consisted of persons who had eaten no form of meat or fish since they took up their vegetarian diet; the second group was made up of persons who only eat meat or fish occasionally.

The terms used to describe people who go without meat, fish and other products of animal origin vary. The following classifications for the different vegetarian groups seem to be the most commonly accepted. Ovo-lacto vegetarians are persons who eat animal products such as milk, food with a lactic base and eggs, but do not consume meat from warm or cold-blooded animals. Numerically, this group is by far the largest among vegetarians; it partially includes anthroposophists and Mormons. The purely lacto group, on the other hand, are persons who also do without eggs — such as the followers of Waerland. The third group consists of Vegans who reject all foods of animal origin, e.g. meat from warm or cold-blooded animals, milk and lactic products, eggs, and even honey.

The 1,904 participants in the Heidelberg study included 1,163 strict vegetarians and 1,741 moderate vegetarians. The statistics are further broken down into male and female persons. Of the 355 strict male vegetarians, 258 stated that they never drank alcohol; of the 503 moderates, 263 "occasionally" did so. Of the 576 strict female vegetarians, 418 never drank alcohol, and of the 470 moderates, 224 "occasionally". There are very few smokers among the vegetarians, although a distinction

The vegetarian way of life seems to have a particularly favourable effect on the heart and on circulation.

must be made between the present and the past.

A long-term study of two groups of Seventh-Day Adventists (35,460 and 24,044 persons) was started in 1956 to try and establish the connection between diet, illness and mortality rate. These persons are all members of a religious sect that is comprised mainly of vegetarians. They are strictly forbidden to smoke or consume alcoholic beverages. They are also advised to avoid certain foods such as meat, poultry, fish, coffee, tea, drink with caffeine content like Coca-Cola, and strong herbs.

About half the Adventists are vegetarians, mainly lacto-ovo-vegetarian, over 80 per cent drink neither coffee nor tea, and more than 90 per cent do not smoke or drink alcohol.

The first survey of Adventists in California in 1956 sought to establish whether this group's morbidity rate (proportion of ill persons in a given population) and mortality rate (the proportion of deaths within the population) due to cardiovascular diseases and cancer were lower than the rates of the average population with conventional eating habits. Cardiovascular diseases and cancer are attributable to smoking and alcohol consumption, i.e. smoking and alcohol are responsible for tumours in the lungs, the bladder, the oral cavity and the gut.

Between the years 1956 and 1965, the Adventist mortality rate as far as many forms of cancer are concerned turned out to be substantially lower. Compared with the Californian population as a whole, the number of deaths resulting from cardiovascular diseases and cancer was 50 per cent lower. These deaths even included cancer forms which are directly linked to smoking; cancer of the gastro-intestinal tract was 30 per cent lower.

Based on the American investigations, the Heidelberg study was aimed at determining whether the incidence of other illnesses and deaths among vegetarians differs from the population in general. The Heidelberg findings more or less agree with those obtained from the Seventh-Day Adventists and Mormons. The vegetarian way of life seems to have a particularly favourable effect on the heart and on circulation.

At 36 deaths from cardiovascular disorders, the mortality rate established by the Heidelberg team was 80 per cent

below the statistical average of the population of Germany. A much lower incidence of death from lung cancer was conspicuous. Fatal cases of intestinal cancer were, rare; the same applies to carcinoma of the prostate and breast. Only in the case of stomach cancer was the mortality rate almost as high as with people following a conventional diet, at least as far as men were concerned. People who died of stomach cancer were all "strict" vegetarians; even so, they were all octogenarians.

Despite these favourable statistics, the authors of the study, Jenny Claude, Dr. Rainer Frenzel-Beyme and Ursula Elber, prefer to interpret the figures cautiously. The short period of observation, only five years, and the limited case statistics do not permit definite statements to be made. Consequently, the study will be continued for another five years — The German Research Service, Bonn.

Computers herald face-to-face conversations

By Dean Lokken
Rouer

SAN FRANCISCO — In the not-too-distant future, you may one day be punching away at the keyboard of your personal computer when the boss's scowling face pops up on the screen.

He asks for last month's sales figures. Or tells you to get your feet off the desk, trim your hair and straighten your tie.

The equipment to carry out such face-to-face conversations via personal computers is now on the market, although industry analysts say it still appears to be too expensive for immediate widespread use.

Compression Labs Inc (CLI), a leader in teleconferencing technology, recently introduced a desktop video system that can take advantage of ordinary telephone lines to send moving images across the country from one personal computer to another.

When attached to an IBM-compatible personal computer, the equipment makes possible visual and audio communications between workers at a common site, or from an executive's desk to remote offices.

CLI president John Tyson

thinks his company's rembrandt desktop video system will save businessmen considerable time and money that otherwise would have been spent on travel.

The CLI system costs about \$135,000 for a configuration of five video stations and it can accommodate up to 85 stations.

Whenever an employee is ready for a personal computer videoconference he simply presses a button, then dials a telephone number. The person on receiving end activates images on both screens.

For privacy, the video or audio can be switched off at any time during the conversation.

Compression Labs, a San Jose, California-based company, is a pioneer in techniques that compares visual data in such a way that they can then be transmitted over common digital telephone lines.

In developing the personal computer system, CLI relied on many of the same techniques it already was using in larger screen teleconference book-ops.

CLI's big screen equipment is used by numerous corporate giants and government agencies in the United States, such as Boeing, Citicorp, ATT Communications, RCA, Xerox, Seays, NASA and the three branches of the military.

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Sweden battles back against Australia in Davis Cup final

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Mikael Pernfors, playing on grass for only the fifth time in his career, vindicated his selection as a singles player and gave defending champion Sweden a tie in the Davis Cup final with a 6-3, 6-1, 6-3 sweep over Australian Paul McNamee.

Pernfors' triumph Friday at Kooyong made it 1-1 in the best-of-five final in the opening two singles matches.

Pat Cash earlier scored an exciting 13-11, 13-11, 6-4 marathon victory over Swedish no. 1 player Stefan Edberg to give Australia a sensational start to the final.

"I knew if I lost we'd be in big trouble," said Pernfors, a 23-year-old former University of Georgia star and two-time NCAA champion.

Pernfors' win over McNamee vindicated Swedish team captain Hans Olsson's decision to include him as a singles player ahead of the more experienced Anders Jarryd and Joakim Nystrom.

"Pernfors played fantastic tennis, but he's shown me in practice that he was capable of it," said Olsson.

Cash is scheduled to team with John Fitzgerald to face Edberg and Jarryd in the doubles Saturday, with the reverse singles scheduled for Sunday.

Pernfors' only previous experience on grass courts was at Wimbledon earlier this year, where he won three matches

before losing to eventual winner Boris Becker of West Germany in the quarterfinals.

"I was pleased with the way I'd been practicing and I usually perform better in matchplay," said Pernfors, who is ranked 11th in the world.

He took just 91 minutes to blitz McNamee, 32, a two-time Wimbledon doubles champion.

"I was surprised it was over so quickly and so easily, but I passed the real test and I returned well and those are the main points of my game," said the spiky haired Swede. "That was one of the best matches I've ever played."

McNamee offered no excuses after being out-hustled and out-finessed.

"He outplayed me," the Australian admitted.

McNamee, ranked 45th in the world, but with an 11-4 Davis Cup singles record, made error after unforced error as Pernfors pressured him constantly.

Cash earlier had thrilled a sun-baked sellout crowd of about 11,000 by out-lasting Australian Open champion Edberg, a serve-and-volley specialist ranked 20 places above Cash's 24th world

ranking.

The 21-year-old Australian battled back from 1-5 down in the first set before triumphing in 3 hours 45 minutes. Playing in front of his hometown crowd, Cash was far steadier than his Swedish opponent.

Cash said he had not been concerned by his form, even when trailing in the first set. He attributed his early problems to the sun shining in his eyes when he was serving.

"I didn't feel I was playing that badly," he said. "I wasn't that disappointed, and when I got back into the first set I knew I could win the whole match."

"I was returning a bit better than he was. It was just a point here and a point there — that's the way it is when you play a guy who is that good ... There is nothing like the pressure of a Davis Cup final, but I felt very relaxed. I'd prepared for this for a month. I think mentally this was the best match I have played."

Edberg, who said his timing was off, was not happy with the way he played for his country.

"I don't usually play well in the Davis Cup. Maybe that will come in the future," he said.

Australia is bidding to repeat its 1983 Davis Cup final victory over Sweden on the grass courts of Kooyong, while the Swedes are aiming to become the first team since the abolition of the challenge round 15 years ago to win the trophy three straight years.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Mandlikova to seek Australian citizenship

BRISBANE, Australia (R) — Hana Mandlikova, the world's fourth-ranked women's tennis player, is seeking Australian citizenship, the Brisbane Courier-Mail reported Friday night. The 24-year-old Czechoslovak star, who married a Czechoslovak-born Australian this year, declined to comment directly on the report, but said she would make a statement Saturday. However, her coach Betty Stove said: "It's no secret, we've got nothing to hide." Martina Navratilova, the world's top woman player, defected from Czechoslovakia in 1975 and became a U.S. citizen in 1981. Ivan Lendl, the men's number one who was also born in Czechoslovakia, has already taken the first steps to acquire U.S. citizenship.

Australians score 125 in rebel tour

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The Australians had scored 125 for seven wickets against South Africa's first innings total of 254 when bad light stopped play Friday in the unofficial test cricket match at the Wanderers Club. The Australians had been 125 for five at tea on the second day of the match which began Christmas eve and resumes Saturday. Before play finished, Australia's Michael Haysman scored 17 not out, and Peter Haysman batted 9 not out. Captain Kim Hughes was the high scorer for the Australians, batting 34 before he was trapped leg before wicket.

Andries seeks new date for title defence

LONDON (R) — Dennis Andries of Britain was looking for a new date Friday for his World Boxing Council light-heavyweight title defence against American Tommy Hearn after Feb. 7 was ruled out. The original date for the fight in Las Vegas lost favour with the American Cable Television Company which has bought coverage rights because it clashed with other big sporting events in the United States. Greg Steene, Andries' manager, said he was prepared to compromise over a new date but was determined not to wait until March 20 which was when the television company wanted. Andries, who has won 28 times against six defeats, won the title last April when he outpointed J.B. Williamson of the United States. In his only defence he stopped compatriot Tony Sibson in nine rounds on Sept. 10.

Arsenal stretches unbeaten streak

LONDON (R) — English First Division leader Arsenal shrugged off the loss of an early goal at Leicester Friday to stretch its unbeaten league run to 13 games.

Martin Hayes converted a penalty just before halftime — his 13th goal of the season — to earn Arsenal a 1-1 draw.

Leicester, struggling near the foot of the table, had threatened an upset when Steve Moran scored after only eight minutes.

Defending champion Liverpool slipped seven points behind Arsenal by suffering a rare home defeat. Struggling Manchester United, who had won three and drawn three of its last six league matches at Anfield, spoiled Liverpool's Christmas by winning with a solitary goal by Northern Ireland international Norman Whiteside after 78 minutes.

With Nottingham Forest and Everton, two of Arsenal's closest pursuers, playing later Friday, the London club stretched its lead at the top to six points.

Liverpool could have done with the services of Clive Allen, the league's most prolific marksman this season. He took his tally to 26 with two goals in Tottenham's 4-0 rout of West Ham.

England international Steve Hodge, transferred from Aston Villa earlier this week, celebrated his Tottenham debut with a goal in the 53rd minute.

A goal three minutes from time by John Bumstead lifted some of the gloom which has settled over Chelsea's Stamford Road Ground in recent weeks. His strike earned Chelsea a 2-1 win over Southampton, its first victory in 10 league outings, and lifted it from the foot of the table.

North downs South in Blue-Gray bowl

MONTGOMERY, Alabama (AP) — Notre Dame quarterback Steve Beuerlein threw a touchdown pass and directed three other scoring drives in leading the North to a 31-7 victory over the South in the 49th annual Blue-Gray all-star football game on Thursday.

Beuerlein threw a 23-yard scoring strike in the second period to Michigan state's Mark Ingram, who also caught a 7-yard TD pass from Oregon's Chris Miller in the fourth period. Also scoring for the Blue was Temple tailback Paul Palmer on a 2-yard run and Washington State's Kerry Porter on a 1-yard run.

Notre Dame's John Carney added a 50-yard field goal for the Blue.

The Gray's only points came on a 1-yard run by Virginia running back Antonio Rice.

Beuerlein finished the day with 12 completions in 15 attempts for 142 yards. Palmer, runnerup to Miami quarterback Vinny Testaverde in voting for the Heisman Trophy, ran for 166 yards on 22 carries and was named the game's most valuable player.

Botham, Small wreck Australian first innings

MELBOURNE (R) — Ian Botham, returning after injury, and Gladstone Small, called up as a late replacement, each took five wickets as England dismissed Australia for 141 at the start of the fourth test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground Friday.

Before a holiday crowd of 58,000, England then made 95 for one to end the first day in a position of considerable strength. Already 1-0 ahead in the five-match series, England needs only draw this match to be sure of retaining the Ashes, the historic prize for the winner of series between the two countries.

England captain Mike Gatting's decision to put Australia in proved a wise one as Small and Botham made the most of conditions that helped seam bowling.

England was abetted in its destruction of the Australian innings by some superb catches, wicketkeeper Jack Richards taking five of them, and batting that did not always measure up to the standard expected in test cricket.

Small, called in when Graham Dilley failed a fitness test on his right knee, finished with five for 48, easily his best test performance, and Botham, having his first serious bowl since injuring his ribs more than three weeks ago, took five for 41, the 27th time he has taken five or more wickets

in a test innings. Botham also held three catches.

Of the Australian batsmen, only Dean John enhanced his reputation. He made 59 before becoming one of Small's victims, caught at mid wicket off a leading edge.

Small made the initial breakthrough when he had David Boon caught at slip for seven with the score 16 and by lunch Australia had slipped to 83 for three. Geoff Marsh and Allan Border both having been caught behind off Botham.

But it was in the afternoon that the Australian innings really fell apart with seven wickets going down in the session so that they were all out at tea. Once Jones departed having held on for 154 minutes and hit six boundaries, there was little resistance from the others.

In contrast, England's batting was solid from the start with openers Bill Athey and Chris Broad putting on 58 before Athey fell lbw to a low delivery from Bruce Reid.

Broad, already with two hundreds to his name in the series, remained 56 not out. His half century came from 84 balls and included five fours.

With nine wickets in hand, England is only 47 runs from taking a first innings lead.

French renew challenge to New Zealand yacht

FREMANTLE, Australia (AP) — The controversy surrounding New Zealand's fiberglass hull was renewed Friday when French Kiss demanded core samples be taken of the all-winning Kiwi 12-metre yacht.

French Kiss is set to seek an injunction in the New York supreme court if it does not receive the test information requested.

The New York court administers rules governing cup competition and an injunction, if granted, could stop New Zealand from participating in the crucial semi-finals of the America's Cup challengers' trials, which start Sunday.

The New Zealanders are scheduled to meet French Kiss in the best-of-seven series. The winner will meet the victor in the other semi-finals series in which Stars and Stripes and USA compete.

French Kiss skipper Marc Pajot said his boat would race Sunday, but the syndicate indicated it might file a formal protest once the race had started.

Commodore Gianfranco Alberini of the yacht club Costa Smeralda, which is in charge of the challengers' trials, said his organization believed the resurvey was legal and racing would go ahead.

New Zealand Syndicate Chairman Michael Fay has threatened legal action for defamation and damages should any further allegations be made against the Kiwi fiberglass boat.

He issued the warning immediately after Lloyd's Register of Shipping had conducted a test on the hull and pronounced it a legal 12-metre boat. The other three challengers were also given approval in the resurveys.

"This appeared" to satisfy everybody, especially the two remaining American competitors who had demanded the tests in case New Zealand enjoyed a weight and thickness advantage in their hull.

"The French now argue that no proof was released, and that the test was not accurate."

"We have to mistrust the results," said Admiral Rene Marquize, chairman of the French Kiss Syndicate.

According to Admiral Marquize, the electronic instruments used by Lloyd's principal surveyor of yachts, Bob Rymill, "are not accurate enough on composite materials (sandwich type fiberglass) constituting the hull of the New Zealand challenge boat."

Admiral Marquize added, "if no appropriate action is taken concerning these two requests, we would refer the matter by injunction to the tribunal of New York, to be granted redress by a judicial procedure."

A spokesman for Alberini said the matter was considered closed. Marquize said that the French wanted to know "if the density of the hull varied, and by how much."

Top seeds advance in Florida

MIAMI BEACH, Florida (AP) — Top seeds Javier Sanchez of Spain and Patricia Tarabini of Argentina advanced in singles matches Thursday in the boys and girls 18 divisions of the 40th annual Orange Bowl International Tennis Championships.

Sanchez defeated unseeded Michael Bauer of Austria 6-3, 6-2, while Tarabini won her match over Evica Koljanin of Yugoslavia 6-3, 6-0. The matches at the Miami Beach Tennis Center were played on Christmas Day after being postponed a day because of rain.

Also in the boys 18 division, second-seeded Tomas Carbonell of Spain breezed by Louis Ruetie of Mexico 6-2, 6-2. Third-seeded Omar Camporese of Italy defeated Marcus Barbaza of Brazil 6-0, 6-3.

In the girls 18 division, second-seeded Bettina Fulco of Argentina won her match over Sandra Bemel of Argentina 6-2, 6-4. Third-seeded Radka Zrubakova of Czechoslovakia defeated unseeded Antoinette Grech of Canada, who retired from the match after losing the first set.

English Channel: Mecca of marathon swimming

By Robert Glass
Associated Press

DOVER, England — Coated with porpoise oil, wearing scarlet silk trunks and fortified by brandy, ale, beef tea and coffee, the intrepid Capt. Matthew Webb astonished the world in 1875 by swimming the English Channel.

They've been doing it ever since.

No matter that 297 people have conquered the channel, that one man has done it 31 times, that another swam from England to France, then France to England, then England to France all in one go — the English Channel still is to swimming what Mount Everest is to mountain climbing.

"The summit of every marathon swimmer's ambition is to swim the channel," says Ray Scott, chairman of the Channel Swimming Association, which authenticates swims.

Of 47 attempted solo crossings of the 39-kilometre channel in 1886, 21 were successful: eight Britons, seven Americans, two New Zealanders, and one each from Japan, India and Mexico.

There were 17 successful and four unsuccessful crossings by six-member relay teams, one successful two-way relay and one triple relay.

Nobody knows how many people have taken on the channel, but Scott estimates 3,750 throughout history. With 297 confirmed solo swims — 199 men

and 98 women — that would mean that fewer than one in 10 who have ever tried the channel made it.

"Forty-seven countries now have had successful swimmers, and there are six other countries that have tried it and haven't made it," Scott said. "Of the world's major countries, only Russia and China haven't tried the channel."

Ask channel swimmers what makes it tough, and they invariably mention the awful cold. During the swimming season from late July to mid-October, the water is usually around 60 F (15.5 C). Nobody tries it without a thick coating of grease to hold in body warmth.

Then there are the stinging jellyfish, the throat-parching salt water, floating logs, diesel fumes from the escort boats and winds that can stir up swells twice a man's height. Opposing tides down from the North Sea and up the channel drag swimmers into a "S" course and nearly always add about 16 kilometres to the swim.

At least two people have died swimming the channel, and scores have been pulled out exhausted and suffering from exposure.

Not the least of obstacles is money. Swimmers must pay the boat pilot £700 (\$980), the official observer £52 (\$73) and the swimming association £16 (\$22).

They even have to buy the vellum award certificates, which have just gone up to £75 (\$105). And then there are the costs of travel, hotels and meals.

Michael Read, a 42-year-old nutritionist, swam the channel a record 31 times between 1969 and 1984, including six in one year, another record. He is often asked why swimmers bother to challenge the channel.

"Because it's the ultimate in long-distance swimming," said Read, two also has made several abortive double crossings.

"There may be more difficult areas, but the channel is the thing everybody goes to," he said.

Some swimmers go for the fastest time, or such records as the youngest (12) and oldest (65).

For others, swimming the channel is a way to claim a first or show they have overcome a disability. Although two paraplegics have made it, there have been failed attempts over the years by legless Vietnam veterans, at least one epileptic and a blind man, who was guided by a trainer blowing a whistle and sounding a bell from the escort boat.

The quest for first opens all sorts of possibilities. In 1981, for instance, there was a failed attempt by identical twins, and in 1971, one by six members of an

English nudist camp who tried to become the first all-nude relay team.

Scott bristles at such exploits. "I think there's a reasonable ambition to be the youngest person to do something, or the oldest and so on," he said. "But I say, to think you are the first long-eared, blue-eyed bald person with 29 teeth is not a great ambition."

Webb, an English merchant navy captain, made the first confirmed conquest on Aug. 24-25, 1875. Pulling a steady breaststroke, he swam all night by the light of a three-quarter moon, crossing from Dover Pier to Calais in 21 hours, 45 minutes and covering nearly 65 kilometres.

By today's standards, Webb's time was slow. With months of training and improved techniques — most swim the crawl, whereas Webb did a breaststroke — the average time is more like 12 hours.

The fastest crossing ever was by Californian Penny Dean, who swam the channel in 7 hours, 40 minutes on July 29, 1978.

Jon Erikson, a Chicago physical-education instructor, made one of the most remarkable crossings. He swam the channel nonstop three ways on Aug. 11-12, 1981, in 38 hours, 27 minutes.

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2 killed, 3 injured in South African Christmas Day clashes

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (Agencies) — Two men were killed, two others were injured and a 16-year-old girl was shot during Christmas Day skirmishes among factions in two black townships, the government reported Friday.

In its daily unrest report, the government's Bureau for Information said in two separate incidents "radical and moderate black persons were involved in violent skirmishes."

The bureau gave no further description of the combatants, nor any details about how the fighting broke out. Under new press restrictions imposed earlier this month, all information on unrest and security force action must be cleared with a government censor before it is published, and few details are given in the official reports.

The bureau said that the 16-year-old girl was wounded when radicals fired at a moderate group in Chesherville, a township near the Indian Ocean port city of Durban. It said that two black men were killed and two were

wounded in a skirmish at Sakhile township near Standerton, 110 kilometres south east of Johannesburg.

The bureau said, "other reported unrest-related incidents comprised isolated cases of stone throwing and petrol (gasoline) bomb attacks on private homes and vehicles. Only a minimum of damage was caused."

The new Minister of Law and Order, Adriaan Vlok, after visiting two police stations in black townships on Christmas Day, said that a year ago people in black areas could not live in peace, but the situation was now almost back to normal because of the work of security forces.

Mr. Vlok, his deputy, their wives and other officials travelled by helicopter in tight security between Mamelodi and Tembisa

township, east of Johannesburg.

"We are living in a dirty world with many problems, but we will be able to handle the evil with men of the caliber of the SAP (South African Police) at our disposal," Mr. Vlok said. "We are not going to allow enemies of the country to harass residents of the township. We are going to serve and protect them."

Three men were killed on Christmas Eve by security forces and another man was burned to death by a mob in black township, the government said Thursday in its daily unrest report.

A mob of 20 blacks poured gasoline on a woman and set her on fire in Johannesburg's Soweto township, but she escaped with minor burns, the Bureau for Information reported.

The three men killed by security forces were part of a group that had stoned a patrol vehicle in Ntshani, a township in the eastern Cape province, the bureau report said.

"The security forces retaliated with shotgun and pistol fire," the

report said. Three black men were killed, a member of the security forces was injured, and one black man was arrested, the bureau said, but it gave no further details except the identity of one of the dead men, 20-year-old Vusi Kgwana of Mzansi.

The South African authorities, who sought Wednesday night to censor reports of the death of a young black detained without trial, confirmed later that he had died in hospital.

The Detainees' Parents Support Committee (DPSC), a civil rights group that monitors detentions, said Wednesday night that the parents of 20-year-old Simon Marule were told by police that their son died in hospital soon after being transferred there from Modderbee Prison, near Johannesburg.

The DPSC said Marule was detained shortly after emergency rule was imposed on South Africa in June, after two years of township protest violence amid growing demands for black majority rule.

Chinese academics urge end to protests

PEKING (R) — Top academics Friday called on students demonstrating for greater democracy to stay off the streets as Western diplomats praised China for handling the protests with a sophistication and tact rare in a Communist country.

The People's Daily Friday quoted Fei Xiaotong, a professor at the elite Peking University, as saying that Chinese people did not, for many historical reasons, know how to use democracy, one of the main demands of the students.

"We cannot attain it in one step. We are still in the process of studying how to use it," he said.

Students in campuses across China have held a wave of demonstrations during the past 10 days calling for more freedom of the press and democracy.

A physics professor at Qinghua University in Peking was quoted in the Peking Daily as saying that the 1966-67 Cultural Revolution, which began with student riots and turned the country into chaos, put an end to all his work.

"It was the most creative time of our lives but we could do no research work and were cut off from the outside world for ten years," Zhao Nanning said.

The People's Daily, commenting on student protests, Thursday drew parallels with the Cultural Revolution during which bands of young extreme leftists travelled the country purging people perceived as having fallen out of the party line.

The official campaign warning students against demonstrating has spread to radio stations and television news, which Thursday night showed soldiers on the Vietnam battlefield visiting three universities in Peking.

"We at the front are very concerned that China is stable and united in the course of national construction," one of them said.

One Western diplomat said the media campaign was a key part in China's strategy to handle the protests. He described the strategy as sophisticated and tactful and rare in a Communist country.

"Both police and students seem to want to avoid confrontation. There seems to have been no bloodshed," he said.

He said the government wanted to co-opt students and intellectuals into the political process and not alienate them.

"The knee-jerk reaction of most Communist governments to protest of any sort is to clamp down hard on it, but Peking has not done it this time," he said.

The domestic media has written extensively this week about the protests, always giving the official line.

"It is rare for the media to report unrest or protest within China," a Chinese journalist said.

Authorities Friday tightened regulations on public meetings in Shanghai after a week of demonstrations by Chinese students.

A Public Security Bureau statement said rally organisers would have to apply for a licence 72 hours in advance of a meeting, giving the number of participants and proposed route of any parade.

It said under the rules, effective immediately, organisers will be responsible for maintaining order and must not allow unauthorised people to take part.

It added that security authorities retained the right to stop meetings if any law was broken. The regulations are temporary and apply only to Shanghai, China's largest city.

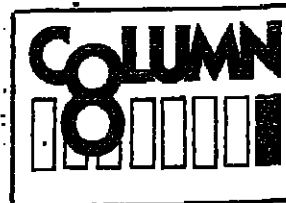
Only a small crowd gathered in People's Square Friday, the birthday of Mao Tseung, who led the 1949 Communist revolution and died in office 10 years ago.

Mao, with the support of radicals in Shanghai, launched the extreme leftist Cultural Revolution in 1966 during which he deposed President Liu Shaoqi and purged the government and party of his followers.

Last weekend, 10,000 students demanding democracy and press freedom demonstrated in People's Square.

Student leaders contacted by Reuters said they were planning further protests and had applied to the authorities for licences.

Student fervour has apparently tempered in the past two days with the city free of protest marches that obstructed traffic and affected business in shops and restaurants.



Actress poses with Israeli troops in Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank (AP) — Santa brought to Bethlehem a special treat this year — Actress Victoria Principal of the U.S. television show Dallas, who toured the town of Jesus' birth on Christmas Eve, Ms. Principal, better known as Pamela Ewing of the television programme, posed with grinning Israeli soldiers outside the Church of the Nativity while photographers snapped away. A portly Santa also took part in the photo session in Manger Square. In an interview on Israel Television later Wednesday, Ms. Principal complained that what had begun as a vacation "and spiritual trip" to Israel was becoming a trip of harassment by reporters and photographers. Israel Television reported that she and her husband, plastic surgeon Harry Glassman of Los Angeles, were cutting short their weeklong trip that started Sunday because of the bother.

Thief celebrates 1st Christmas in 44 years

DURHAM, England (AP) — A lifetime petty thief, who once locked himself into a house he was trying to rob, was released from prison several weeks early on Wednesday so he could celebrate Christmas at home for the first time in 44 years. A dozen Durham Prison officers, well-acquainted with the 69-year-old Albert Laidler, gave him a "cheery send-off," the British Press Association said. "I am really looking forward to my first proper Christmas," said the buoyant Laidler, who is also due to go to a wedding for the first time in his life on Saturday. Laidler said he would use his prison discharge money to buy a new shirt for the ceremony and a present for the couple: His landlady, Anne Gordon, and her fiancée. Sentenced 64 times, Laidler has served time in most of Britain's jails and spent every Christmas since 1942 behind bars. But Laidler hasn't ever stolen anything worth more than £100 (\$143). He also hasn't been particularly adept. The time he locked himself into the house he was trying to rob, he was forced to wait for someone to return.

Thai ministers get condoms

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's cabinet ministers have received a new year's gift of condoms from the country's top family planning crusader. Economist Mechai Viravaidya, whose good-humoured campaigns are thought to have helped lower the country's birth rate, said Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda described his condoms as an "excellent gift." Prem, 65, is a bachelor. Government spokesman Mechai also handed out condoms to male and female reporters at government house. The country's birth rate has dropped from 3.3 per cent a year to 1.5 per cent since Mechai, whose name has become a Thai slang word for condom, began campaigning 10 years ago.

Woman poisons champagne at school celebration

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — One person died and four others were hospitalised after drinking poison-laced champagne at end-of-year school celebration, police said Wednesday. Students at the Professora Maria Coutinho School in Contagem, 460 kilometres north west of Rio, drank poison-laced champagne Monday served by an unidentified woman, said police officer Kate Ferreira by telephone. Ferreira said the champagne, possible laced with cyanide, was served to school principal Cléria Pereira as well as two teachers and two students at the party for students and their parents. "It looks like a case of revenge," Ferreira said. "The woman was probably a mother who had fought with the principal about her child." Both teachers and the two students were rushed to the hospital, along with the principal, shortly after drinking the beverage. Seventeen-year-old Leonardo Sadra died shortly after being admitted, Ferreira said. Police said they won't know for sure what poison was used until they have the results of tests Monday. Police still have not found the woman who served the fatal beverage. Ferreira said.

British tanker sinks after running aground; 12 killed

REYKIAVIK, Iceland (AP) — A British-owned tanker sank early Friday after hitting a rock on the east coast of Iceland and all 12 crewmen were feared dead, Iceland's National Rescue Organisation said.

Rescuers found one of the crewmen alive but he died a short time later, said rescue organisation spokesman Johannes Briem.

The 1,260-ton Syneta sent a distress call at about midnight GMT saying it had run aground and couldn't launch any of its life rafts because the tanker was too close to the rock.

Mr. Briem said the crew of 12 apparently jumped into the sea when the ship began to sink.

Rescuers recovered seven bodies, all in the lifejackets, and spotted the bodies of two others before they sank, he said. The other three crewmen were missing and presumed dead though a search was still underway.

The 36-metre Syneta, registered in Gibraltar and owned by Syndicated Tankship Ltd., carried a crew of 12, six Britons and six men from the Cape Verde Islands. Mr. Briem said. Lloyd's Shipping Intelligence said the Syneta was built in 1969 and owned by Haggerstone Marine Ltd. outside London.

Mr. Briem said the Syneta was enroute to Esbjerg on the east coast of Iceland to pick up a cargo of fish liver oil when it ran aground on Skrudur Rock at the mouth of the Faskrudsfjordur Fjord. Lloyd's said the ship left the English port of Liverpool on Dec. 20.

Mr. Briem said the crew gave an incorrect position 16 kilometres north of Skrudur Rock in the Mayday call. But he said rescuers found the tanker after seeing a distress rocket flare fired by the crew.

It took 30 minutes for the first of 12 fishing boats, the Thorm, to get to the scene. It arrived at 0130 GMT, found the ship nearly capsized and saw no sign of the crew, Mr. Briem said.

The ship later sank, he said. The first body was found floating in the sea at 0240 GMT. A few minutes later, another crewman was spotted showing signs of life but he later died, Mr. Briem said.

Rescuers spotted a total of nine

bodies, all in life jackets, and recovered seven, he said. The two others sank before they could be brought aboard the fishing boats.

Meanwhile rescue officials called off a search Friday for three missing crewmen from an Icelandic freighter that sank in rough seas in the North Atlantic early Christmas morning, Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) said.

Five crewmen of the freighter Suderland were rescued from a life raft by a Danish Coast Guard helicopter and were being taken by a Coast Guard frigate to Thorshavn in the Faroe Islands, the RAF said.

Lt. David Burnett of RAF Kinloss, which took part in the rescue, said three of the 11 crew of the 3,500-ton Suderland were initially lost when it went down midway between Iceland and Norway. Officials searched but could not find the men.

The other eight managed to get into one of the Suderland's life rafts, but three of the eight had died of exposure by the time the Danish helicopter arrived to rescue them.

The five survivors were winched from the life raft to the helicopter and flown to the Coast Guard frigate, which was patrolling off the coast of Greenland, where a doctor treated them for shock and exhaustion.

Lt. Burnett added: "The sea conditions were very rough following four days of gale-force winds and the position that the ship sank in was as far from land as it's possible to be in this part of the world. So I think there are five very lucky people."

Gudmundur Asgeirsson, president of Iceland's Neskipp Shipping Line, which owned the freighter, said the vessel was on its way from Iceland to Murmansk in the Soviet Union with 19,000 barrels of herring when it sank 530 kilometres north east of Iceland.

Capt. Sigurdur Sigurjonsson sent a radio distress call when the freighter began listing after being hammered by heavy seas and hit by a big wave. It sank about 30 minutes later.

Iceland Rescue Authorities heard Sigurjonsson's distress call and planes and ships from Scotland, Denmark, Norway and the Faroe Islands were sent to the area in response.

Indian tribal guerrillas kill 8, set home ablaze

NEW DELHI (R) — Tribal guerrillas bayoneted a family of eight, including six women and children, set their home ablaze, and tossed the bodies into the flames in defiance of new security drive in Tripura state.

About 15 Tripura National Volunteers (TNV) guerrillas launched the attack only hours after state authorities called out the army to step up counter-insurgency in troubled areas, Chief Minister Nripen Chakraborty told the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency.

He said the rebels stormed Kachhicherry-Dabbari village around midnight. A TNV hit squad bayoneted eight villagers, killing four, in another part of Tripura on Wednesday night.

Hours later police found the mutilated body of a tribesman on a river bank, raising fears of reprisals by immigrants.

Mr. Chakraborty responded Thursday by ordering the army to "show the flag" in a series of marches.

The killings brought to 103 this year's death toll from a TNV campaign to drive out non-tribal, mainly Bengali-speaking immigrants and create an independent homeland in Tripura for tribal people.

TNV recently stepped up attacks on settlers despite the presence of thousands of Indian para-military security forces. It has staged attacks since 1980 when 450 people were killed in an uprising by Tripura's indigenous tribesmen.

State authorities say TNV extremists operate from hideouts in neighbouring Bangladesh where they receive training and arms. Dhaka denies this.

Meanwhile headline Gurkha separatists attacked a slum and burned 25 houses in the Indian

state of West Bengal, injuring several residents, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Friday.

PTI said nearly 1,000 supporters of the Gorkhaland National Liberation Front (GNLF), which has been fighting for a separate Gurkha homeland, stormed the heavily populated area near Gumbathan village Thursday, firing guns and tossing fire bombs.

Dozens of people have died this year in GNLF-related clashes centred in the Darjeeling area where the Nepali-speaking Gurkhas make up 90 per cent of the one million population.

In Punjab five people were killed in extremist-related violence Thursday as police said they foiled a Christmas Day attempt by Sikh militants to blow up a train.

Rail services to Amritsar, the Sikh holy city, were disrupted for several hours as army experts defused six explosive devices found on a railway track near the city station.

Amritsar has been tense for two weeks after riots and protest strikes that followed the killings of a Hindu politician and a 15-year-old son of a police inspector by Sikh gunmen.

At India's popular seaside resort of Goa police fired in the air Thursday to break up hundreds of stone-throwing demonstrators in a new upsurge of language violence.

PTI said police opened fire after a baton charges failed to disperse 300 supporters of the local Konkani tongue, who were trying to stop them dismantling street barricades.

No one was injured in the firing at the town of Dandawado, in south Goa, PTI said. Scores of agitators were arrested across the territory, it added.

Voyager pilots are set for more globe trotting

MOJAVE, California (AP) — Voyager pilots Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager are set for more globe trotting, this time using more conventional means for a more mundane purpose.

The pair will be making appearances on talk shows in the United States and around the world in an effort to recoup the cost of their historic non-stop, unrefuelled global flight.

A book and movie chronicling the epic trip also are on the horizon.

"The programme incurred a sizable debt that needs to be paid back," Rutan said. "For us to pay that back, we're going to have to generate that revenue any way that the publicity will allow us to."

"Nobody sponsored this project except the people that bought T-shirts and joined our little VIP club. It was sponsored by grass-roots Americans, although (some companies) contributed their products and service."

Voyager landed Tuesday at Edwards Air Force Base north of Los Angeles after a nine-day, 42,000 kilometre journey that began on Dec. 14.

The flight broke the previous unrefuelled distance record of 20,164 kilometres set by an air force B-52 in 1962.

Voyager officials have been unwilling to estimate the cost of the project, pointing out that much of the materials and equipment was donated, as was the time of the technical experts who managed the flight.

Flight spokesman Peter Riva

said Wednesday the book should be out in about six months.

"After that is going to be the movie," he said. "Hollywood has been banging on the door for some time."

Riva had no details about the movie plans.

"I'd like to see them get the recognition they deserve," Riva said. "Dick and Jeana didn't work six years to be a flash in the pan."

Voyager probably will remain in a hangar at Edwards Air Force Base for a week before being flown back to Mojave airport, where the project was based, he said.

The spindly aircraft will be displayed for about six months at the hangar where it was assembled. Voyager's designer, Burt Rutan, wants the craft eventually to hang in the Smithsonian Institution. The Rutans are brothers.

He discussed the difficulties in developing the plane and how it might have been done differently.

"We ran into a lot of challenges on this project, a lot of them that were very discouraging. And the day that they happened, when I went home to bed I was thorough with it. But it's funny how a good night's sleep and another fresh look at it in the morning changes everything."

Rutan said that with the advantage of hindsight, there might have been ways to design the Voyager differently to avoid the problems of weather and crew discomfort.

Miscarriages up in women exposed to processes in making computer chips

HUDSON, Massachusetts (AP) — Significantly more miscarriages have been found among women production workers at a semiconductor plant than those not exposed to processes used in making computer chips, a study has found.

In one principal area of production, the level of miscarriages was twice that of non-production workers, according to the University of Massachusetts' School of Public Health Study commissioned by Digital Equipment Corp.

The findings, believed to be the first of its kind in the computer industry, has broad implications for the computer chip industry, which employs more than 55,000 U.S. production workers, with most believed to be women.

The study, which found no

evidence of a wide range of other major health disorders such as birth defects and infertility, surveyed 744 of Digital's nearly 2,000 workers at the Hudson Semiconductor Plant. Of those studied, 294 were production-line workers and the rest were non-production workers.

The study, based on the history of the workers at the plant for five years, was designed to measure a wide range of possible health problems among women and men. In all, 471 women were studied and 273 men.

Among the non-production workers, the study found that 18 per cent of the pregnancies resulted in miscarriages, similar to the general population.

The incidence of miscarriages among production workers

Colon cancer linked with high cholesterol

BOSTON (AP) — Men with high cholesterol are about 60 per cent more likely than those with normal cholesterol levels to get colon cancer, according to a study.

A second study also suggests that diets rich in fat may cause colon cancer and links high cholesterol with colon polyps that often become cancerous.

But the research, conducted by scientists in Sweden and West Germany and published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, found no evidence that men with unusually low cholesterol levels face an elevated cancer risk, as some earlier studies had suggested.

Both groups noted that high-fat diets cause an increase in the body's excretion of bile acids, which are known to promote tumor growth in animals.

The West German team said that a high-fibre diet is thought to protect against colon cancer by increasing fecal volume and lowering the concentration of cancer-causing agents in the colon.

Health experts have long encouraged people to avoid foods loaded with a saturated fat and cholesterol as a way of preventing

heart disease. The new research supports the growing but still controversial notion that a same healthy diet may also prevent some forms of cancer.

In a study conducted by Dr. Sven A. Tomberg and colleagues from Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm, researchers examined the link between cancer and cholesterol in 92,898 Swedish men and women.

Men who had cholesterol levels of more than 250 milligrams per deciliter of blood, along with elevated beta-lipoproteins, had a risk of colon cancer that was 63 per cent higher than those with cholesterol levels below 224.

Their risk of rectal cancer was 70 per cent higher.

Although similar trends were seen in women, the researchers said they were not statistically meaningful.

In the second study, Dr. Gerd Alexander Mannes and colleagues from the University of Munich in West Germany looked for a link between cholesterol and colon polyps. In an examination of 1,083 patients, they found that those with high cholesterol were twice as likely as those with low levels to have polyps.

In this analysis, those with high cholesterol had levels of more than 267, while those with low levels were below 173. The conclusions applied to both men and women.

People can increase their cholesterol levels by eating saturated fat. The researchers speculated that the elevated cholesterol levels they saw were a sign of high fat consumption. And it was the fat, not the cholesterol, that somehow increased their cancer risk.

The suggestion that low cholesterol levels might be associated with an increased risk of colon cancer emerged a few years ago from heart research, including the long-running Framingham Heart Study, but the Swedish researchers said this finding could have been a mistake.

The Swedes said that people with a low cholesterol who went on to get colon cancer might already have had undiagnosed cancer when their cholesterol measured. And the cancer itself might have depressed their cholesterol levels. If that is true, then the cancer caused their low cholesterol, rather than the low cholesterol causing their cancer.

General honoured for work at Chernobyl

MOSCOW (R) — The head of the Soviet army's special chemical troops, Col.-Gen. Vladimir Pikalov, was dispatched to Chernobyl within hours of the April 26 nuclear accident there and has received top state honours for his work.

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda published an interview with Gen. Pikalov, who described how Armed Forces Chief of Staff Sergei Akhromeyev telephoned him early on April 26 to tell him of the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

"We think it's necessary for you to be there," Gen. Pikalov Thursday quoted Akhromeyev as saying. He said the military chief told him to interrupt manoeuvres he was leading at an unspecified area far from Moscow and leave immediately for Chernobyl.

Only two minutes later, Gen. Pikalov said, he received permission to leave the manoeuvres from Defence Minister Sergei Sokolov, and he arrived at Chernobyl the same day.

The accident had occurred at 1:23 a.m. when unauthorised experiments on the plant's fourth reactor triggered a blast and fire, causing a massive release of radiation which ultimately spread

across Europe.

Soviet authorities blacked out all news of the accident for more than 48 hours, telling Swedish embassy officials in Moscow on the morning of April 28 that they were unaware of any nuclear accident on Soviet territory.

Later that day, the Soviet News Agency TASS issued a brief statement saying an accident had occurred at Chernobyl, but information on the world's worst nuclear disaster continued to emerge slowly, prompting sharp protests in Western Europe.

Upon his arrival at the station, Gen. Pikalov said, he decided to drive around the fourth reactor in a normal automobile although he was aware of the danger.

"The air over the fourth unit was glowing," he said. "In principle I understood the reason for this devilish glow."

He made a second tour of the plant that night in an armoured vehicle of the type later used by workers involved in the Chernobyl clean-up, smashing open a set of gates to ease access to the stricken reactor.

On the morning of April 27 the situation had worsened sharply, Pravda said, and Gen. Pikalov got in touch with a leading civilian

expert on protection against the consequences of radiation in a nuclear war.

The decision was then made to begin evacuating the population, Pravda added.

The newspaper did not say how many chemical troops were brought in under Gen. Pikalov, but it indicated he was still participating in decontamination efforts, saying he planned to return to Chernobyl after giving the Pravda interview.

It said Gen. Pikalov had been honoured by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet with the title "Hero of the Soviet Union" along with another military man cited for "courage and selfless labour." Air Force Maj.-Gen. N. Antoshkin.

Also cited were the leader of a concrete pumping brigade and the head of construction workers who built a reinforced-concrete tomb to encase the damaged reactor, as well as the head of the Rostov Nuclear Power Plant and a deputy medium machine building minister, A. Usanov.

They received the title "Hero of Socialist Labour," Pravda said, adding that many others who helped with the clean-up had received state honours.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHAFF
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IN THE RIGHT ORDER

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A Q 5
♥ A 9 8 2
♦ K 7
♣ A 8 4

WEST EAST
♠ J 8 7 ♠ 10
♥ J 5 ♥ Q 10 8 7
♦ Q 10 8 6 4 3 ♦ J 8 5 2
♣ Q 2 ♣ K J 9 7

SOUTH
♠ K 9 6 4 3 2
♥ K 4
♦ A
♣ 10 6 5 3